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SECURITY COUNCIL
Fifty-second year

Letter dated 12 February 1997 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Ecuador to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit to you the letter addressed to you from the General Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ecuador, Mr. Diego Ribadeneira, concerning the appointment of the new Interim Constitutional President of Ecuador, Mr. Fabián Alarcón.

On instructions from my Government, I should like to request you to have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly under agenda item 22, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Emilio IZQUIERDO
Deputy Permanent Representative
Chargé d'Affaires a.i.

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ANNEX

Letter dated 12 February 1997 from the General Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ecuador addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to inform you, and through you the Members of the United Nations, of the resolution adopted by the National Congress yesterday, under the procedures established in the existing Political Constitution, to preserve the democratic order in Ecuador and to surmount the political crisis of the past few days.

As you know, a massive general strike was organized on 5 February by civil society, including workers, members of trade unions and employers' associations, political leaders, former presidents of the Republic, former presidential candidates, mayors, prefects and the general public, to protest against the Government of former President Abdalá Bucaram Ortiz and demand that Congress remove him from office.

By its resolution of 6 February 1997, the National Congress removed former President Abdalá Bucaram Ortiz from office under article 100 (d) of the Constitution. On 11 February, the Congress of the Republic voted to end the interim presidency of Ms. Rosalía Arteaga and to appoint Mr. Fabián Alarcón Rivera, who took office immediately, as Constitutional Interim President of the Republic.

The above-mentioned resolution of the National Congress, for which 57 members voted in favour, representing more than two thirds of the membership, provides that the Interim President, "12 months from the date of his appointment, through the Supreme Electoral Tribunal, shall call general elections to choose the Constitutional President of the Republic and other elected officials, who shall take office on 1 and 10 August 1998".

Congress publicly and formally confirmed "its commitment to fill the gaps and carry out the requested reforms to achieve a profound restructuring of the State, which will make Ecuador a more just and unified country and will satisfy the aspirations and desires of all segments of Ecuadorian society".

In informing you of the foregoing, I should like to note that this political crisis has been overcome without a single casualty; that no events occurred which would violate the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations; and that, consequently, regional and international security were not threatened, since all the events took place within the framework of respect for the rights and duties of States and of full observance of the right of peoples to self-determination.

(Signed) Diego RIBADENEIRA ESPINOSA
General Secretary
Ministry of Foreign Affairs